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Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 27

Showers in most areas of the state during the week helped alleviate some of the dry soil conditions. Many areas received over an inch of precipitation according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Winter wheat harvest is in full swing in the southern and central portions of the state. Major activities during the week included post-emergence spraying, planting double crop soybeans, monitoring fields for insects, cutting and baling hay, mowing roadsides and care of livestock.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

The **Corn** crop continues to make good progress. Growth and development is ahead of last year and normal for this time of the year. Corn condition is rated 80 percent good to excellent compared with 55 percent last year at this time. **Soybean** planting is virtually complete except for double cropped acreage behind wheat. Of the soybean acres planted, nearly all have emerged. Soybean condition declined from last week and is now rated 76 percent good to excellent, compared with 56 percent last year.

WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat condition is rated 82 percent good to excellent compared with 55 percent last year. Wheat **harvest** is 36 percent complete compared with 23 percent last year and 13 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest is 8 days ahead of the average and only 1 day behind the record pace established in 1988.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition was rated 6 percent excellent, 49 percent good, 36 percent fair, 8 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Transplanting of **tobacco** is 98 percent complete, compared with 64 percent last year and 77 percent for the average. Second cutting of **alfalfa** hay is 25 percent complete, compared with 16 percent last year.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 5.6 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 6 percent very short, 27 percent short, 63 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 4 percent very short, 31 percent short, 63 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Soybeans Emerged	100	99	89	NA
Soybeans Blooming	8	NA	0	NA
Wheat Harvested	36	12	23	13
Alfalfa, Second Cutting	25	NA	16	NA

CROP CONDITION

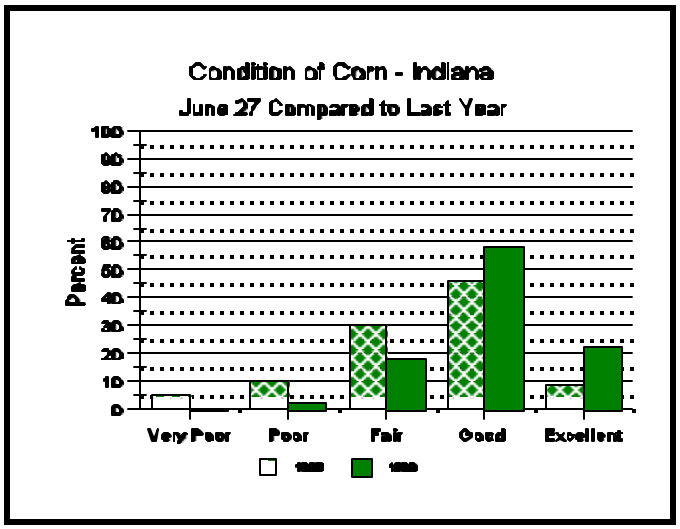
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Corn	0	2	18	58	22
Soybeans	0	2	22	59	17
Winter Wheat	0	2	16	53	29
Pasture	1	8	36	49	6

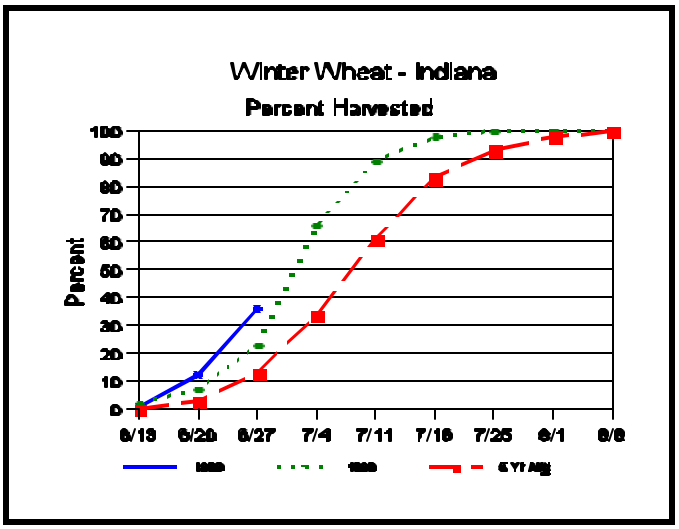
SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	6	3	2
Short	27	22	8
Adequate	63	70	51
Surplus	4	5	39
Subsoil			
Very Short	4	2	1
Short	31	18	7
Adequate	63	76	55
Surplus	2	4	37

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
–Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress





Scouting Reduces Risk!

- Pest management reduces risk and increases benefits
- Regular field scouting is an integral part of pest management
- Trained professionals make the best scouts
- Informed pest management decisions are usually made before planting

Those involved in production agriculture are gamblers! Strong words you might say, but true. Economic decisions are made with the idea of lowering one's losses while maximizing gains. These are the true words of a gambler. As we all know, the outcome of our decisions does not always work in our favor. In other words, our losses may be greater than our gains. When we make decisions, we must weigh the risks and benefits of our actions. Risk/benefit decisions are made on a daily basis and there are few guarantees!

Pest management decisions are risk/benefit decisions. Years of experience, research, trial-and-error, and luck help to determine when a gain or loss will occur as the result of a specific action against a pest. A critical factor in pest management decision making, and one that we can do nothing about, is weather. Moisture and temperature can make or break pest populations and/or our attempts to prevent or control them.

The years of 1988, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1996, and 1997 come to mind as recent widespread pest or pest related problem years throughout much of Indiana. Can you remember the major pest problems of those years? They were: 1988 - twospotted spider mite, 1989 - herbicide carryover, 1991 - European corn borer, 1994 - black cutworm, 1996 – European corn borer, and 1997 – corn rootworm. Chances are that most agriculturists experienced at least one of these problems in this period. What could have helped producers to reduce their risks and therefore have saved the "bottom line" in any of those years? SCOUTING!!!

Regular field scouting dramatically improves pest management decision making. Scouting not only identifies pest problems on a timely basis so that appropriate action can be taken, but also prepares producers for potential future problems. To put it mildly, scouting gives the gambler the edge. It reduces the risks and increases the benefits associated with pest management decision making.

Who can scout fields? Producers, spouses, sons and daughters, high school and college students, ag/chem field personnel, company agronomists, seed company personnel, and crop consultants all make excellent scouts. The key question is, can one devote the necessary time to adequately monitor fields for pests? A scout should not have other major responsibilities, such as helping plant, feeding livestock, transporting chemicals, going to school, etc. Those who are paid, and paid well to scout, generally do a thorough job and stay with it through the "dog days of summer."

(Continued on page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday June 27, 1999

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation April 1, 1999 thru June 27, 1999				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Bloomington	89	63	76	+3	1.32	3		11.86	+0.03	35	1302	+158
Bluffton	89	61	75	+4	0.56	2	75	8.80	-2.34	31	1140	+148
Butlerville	88	61	76	+3	1.91	3	76	11.67	+0.03	43	1260	+68
Castleton	88	57	75	+2	1.58	3		10.94	-0.09	42	1207	+117
Crawfordsville	88	58	74	+2	0.72	5	72	10.41	-1.19	38	1046	-36
Dubois_Ag	88	62	76	+3	2.15	3	82	12.02	-0.81	36	1306	+160
Evansville	87	64	76	-2	0.79	4		13.79	+1.89	35	1456	+99
Farmland	91	58	76	+5	0.24	2	72	8.43	-2.66	39	1124	+229
Fort_Wayne	89	58	75	+3	0.26	2		11.35	+1.30	36	1104	+155
Freelandville	86	63	75	+2	1.90	4		13.21	+0.98	36	1289	+112
Greenfield	87	63	75	+3	0.62	3		8.92	-2.49	41	1207	+160
Indianapolis_AP	88	66	77	+4	0.92	3		10.45	-0.35	38	1313	+197
Indianapolis_SE	86	59	74	+0	1.16	3		10.29	-0.74	43	1166	+76
Logansport	89	58	74	+3	1.69	3		12.78	+2.20	38	1133	+168
New_Castle	87	59	73	+2	0.47	2		8.97	-3.05	38	1026	+107
Perrysville	85	61	74	+1	1.44	4	76	10.96	-0.73	37	1206	+162
Plymouth	90	59	75	+3	0.90	4		13.92	+2.48	37	1105	+107
Scottsburg	89	61	77	+3	2.03	3		10.66	-1.33	30	1358	+190
Shoals	87	62	75	+2	2.18	2		11.61	-1.38	30	1230	+103
South_Bend	89	61	76	+6	1.26	3		11.36	+0.63	36	1144	+245
Tell_City	89	66	77	+3	1.67	3		12.02	-1.26	28	1457	+187
Terre_Haute_Ag	87	62	75	+2	1.54	5		12.22	+0.69	37	1366	+239
Tipton_Ag	87	59	73	+2	0.90	2	71	10.55	-0.29	32	1045	+116
Valparaiso_Ag	86	60	74	+4	1.65	4		12.02	+0.40	36	1095	+175
Vincennes_5NE	89	62	76	+2	1.65	5	78	15.29	+3.06	46	1342	+165
Wanatah	89	53	72	+2	1.76	3	78	12.45	+1.47	37	938	+71
W_Lafayette_6NW	89	61	75	+4	0.89	5	80	12.92	+2.00	37	1162	+190
Wheatfield	87	59	74	+4	1.78	4		14.68	+3.79	33	1117	+219
Winamac	87	60	75	+4	0.96	2		12.08	+1.12	32	1116	+160
Young_America	87	58	73	+2	0.17	2		9.68	-0.90	34	1042	+77

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Although many different types of people can scout, we recommend that producers consider hiring the services of a crop consulting firm that offers regular field scouting. Trained scouts work throughout the growing season, and are especially useful during the producers busiest times, such as planting, and when temperatures increase and crops become more difficult to walk. Remember, pests need to be monitored on a regular basis, not just when producers have extra time! The cutworms that damaged corn this spring were most active when producers were occupied with planting soybeans. It does pay to hire a scouting service! It reduces the risks and increases the benefits of pest management decision making.

Many questions have already been asked this year that will affect pest management decisions for 2000. Will an insecticide applied at planting prevent white grub, wireworm, or cutworm damage? Should I purchase and plant Bt corn next year? Should I change my tillage practices to prevent this pest? Are my herbicides working and not hurting the crop? Should I plant continuous soybean to prevent rootworm damage?

Regular field scouting will help one identify pest problems (insects, weeds, diseases, etc.) on a timely basis and allow for informed control decisions to be made. Scouting costs approximately $5 - 6.00 per acre. Compared to a $15.00 per acre planting time insecticide treatment scouting looks like an excellent buy. Remember, the use of a soil insecticide “may” reduce the risk of some early season pests, but scouting and proper decision making can reduce the risks of all pests and, therefore, provides benefits throughout the season.

--John Obermeyer and Rich Edwards, Purdue University

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